



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
13.		Favor	Aaron Robertson	
			Alberto Retana	
			Aliya Yousufi	
			Andy Sywak	
			Ange-Marie Hancock	I write as an individual citizen in favor of this motion and want to emphasize one particular point: while it may indeed be necessary to expand the size of the BoS, to focus on that without connecting it to a broader study of governance changes and such a change's potential impact on racial equity would be short-sighted. Moreover, without other potential changes "business as usual" would be allowed to continue among the departments or simply expand the number of "bosses" of County departments without encouraging concomitant revisions to how the departments do their work and report to the BoS. This motion instead permits a robust analysis of the best way to expand the size of the BoS without doing so in a short-sighted and non-transparent way.
			Asmaa Ahmed	
			CCA CCA	
			Christa Ramey	
			Christian Arana	I live in the 3rd supervisorial district of Los Angeles County. I support the motion to hire an independent consultant to study the governance of the board of supervisors and its decision making processes. As a resident of this county that greatly values transparency and accountability, this motion is right and timely. Counties like Los Angeles have received hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government, and there must be a transparent way to track those dollars and its uses. Groups like the Immigrants are Los Angeles Campaign, for example, are asking for an equitable share of American Rescue Plan resources for the county's immigrant community. I support their campaign and their demands. We must have the board be transparent and accountable when they hear these types of requests from such groups. Please vote yes on Agenda Item 13.



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
			Name	Comments
13.		Favor	David Levitus	As a nonprofit dedicated to making LA County a fair, flourishing place for everyone and an organization with a track record of pushing for fair representation and good government, LA Forward supports this motion to create an independent process to holistically review the Board's governance model and identify potential reforms to increase equity, transparency, and inclusivity.
			David J Barboza	On behalf of Abundant Housing LA, please see the attached letter.
			Dylan Johnson	
			Elissa Underwood	
			Geanise Richardson	
			Genevieve M Clavreul	
			Hannah Cornfield	I am writing on behalf of Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA). Founded in 1992 to advance economic justice in Los Angeles, KIWA builds power with immigrant workers and renters to bring about a more just and equitable Los Angeles. We support workers, particularly in the restaurant and retail industries, to improve their working conditions. We know that labor and housing conditions are directly connected, and we have integrated housing policy and tenant services into our work since 2007. The LA County Governance Reform Motion is critical because it works to advance equity in our city by initiating an independent process to holistically review the Board's governance model and identify potential reforms to increase equity, transparency, and inclusivity. Through engagement of internal and external stakeholders and an analysis of equitable best practices across the country, this motion further advances equity by 1) establishing a process for advance review of motions before they are considered by the Board, enabling deeper policy analysis and greater opportunity for public input; 2) improving the County's policy cluster system and budgeting processes to increase inclusivity and effectiveness; 3) exploring structural changes to the Board including a potential expansion of the Board of Supervisors; and 4) advancing campaign finance reforms such as a matching funds program for County elections. KIWA's primary theory of change is organizing — identifying, recruiting and developing leaders. We meet workers everyday who are leaders organizing to improve the working conditions in their workplaces. Often, they are fighting for improved conditions, such as higher wages and better benefits, along with a stronger voice and structure to participate in the governance of their workplace. In addition, we meet workers everyday who are renters, who are also fighting to participate in the governance of their housing. KIWA knows that participatory governance is necessary for a thriving democracy where structural change is possible. Because of KIWA's holistic relationship with workers, KIWA works in the areas of civic justice,

As of: 2/28/2023 4:33:03 PM



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	<p>economic policy, immigration, housing policy, and land-use reform. We know that in order to enact and implement critical social policies effectively, such as policies concerning worker rights and affordable housing, LA County needs a transparent governance and budget process that centers the voices of those most marginalized from accessing their basic needs. In order to bring about an equitable and inclusive community engagement approach to public decisions, the County must ensure that the people most affected and most marginalized— particularly low-income people, unhoused people, communities of color, recent immigrants, speakers of English as a second language, have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. KIWA knows this to be true inside and outside of the workplace; that those most affected by an issue need to have a say in addressing and solving the issue; that those most targeted by a structural problem, understand the root of a problem and know how to address it. This means we need consistent, transparent decision-making processes with meaningful opportunities for public participation. With our broad mission of improving participatory governance, KIWA believes in a more inclusive and transparent decision-making process that empowers community members and ultimately leads to more equitable outcomes. The LA County Governance Reform Motion is a critical step in identifying and analyzing best practices and recommendations on potential governance reforms to enable a more transparent and equitable policy development process. This is what accountability looks like.</p>
Hector Ramirez	<p>Hector M. Ramirez Access Ambassador volunteered with Cal Voices.</p> <p>Thank Supervisor Mitchell and Horbath for putting forward this motion for the exploration of best practices around governance which I support.</p> <p>Being the best county possible needs to mean that it is Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, and Accessible. A county that is diligent in its oversight and accountability of the funds it has been tasked to oversee while engaging its residents in a participatory matter that is transparent, representative, and forward thinking.</p> <p>Stakeholder process, oversight of mandates like the Americans with Disability Act, and Mental Health Services Act, and county commissions.</p>
Jaime Martinez	<p>I urge BOS to pass ITEM 13. We the immigrant community need your support.</p>
Jennifer T Williams	<p>I am an ADEM delegate for AD 61 and resident of the unincorporated community of Westmont. I am also a member of the West Athens Westmont Task Force. As a resident of an unincorporated community, I support this motion with the expectation that specific focus and consideration be dedicated to exploring improving the equitable governance of unincorporated neighborhoods in the County. As unincorporated communities do not have city councils, we rely solely on LA County for all municipal services. In a County that governs almost 10 million people, about 1 million of whom live in unincorporated communities, I feel our needs and concerns often get deprioritized by various LA County departments.</p>



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			Jessica Farris	Please see attached letter of justice orgs in strong support.
			Jordan Wynne	The United Way of Greater Los Angeles is an advocate for transparent governance and increased representation of the people of LA County in the policy process. To create the best policies that serve our diverse communities across Los Angeles, adequate and equitable representation in government is key. The United Way has fostered advocacy that is equity focused through our campaigns to end the housing and homelessness crises, and through our involvement in Our Future Los Angeles, a countywide coalition seeking a more equitable future for all residents of LA County. We are encouraged by the motion put forth by Supervisors Horvath and Mitchell and hope that the County will continue to examine how it can best serve the residents and promote a prosperous future for all.
			Lupita Martinez	Good afternoon, my name is Lupita Martinez with CHIRLA and I belong to Immigrants Are LA. I am calling in support of item 13. Thank you supervisors Holly Mitchell and Lindsey Horvath for bringing forward this motion to improve Los Angeles County board governance to strengthen equity and transparency. This creates a more inclusive county government for our historically excluded communities like our immigrant community, this would allow us to participate in the county's decision-making process. Motion 13 has overwhelming support from our community and we urge our Board of Supervisors to please vote yes on Motion 13. Thank you. Note: I called in for public comment and was skipped.
			Margo A Reeg	
			Mary Kohav	<p>In my role as Vice President of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Community Engagement at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, I am writing in support of this motion to establish an independent external governance reform committee to review and improve Los Angeles County's Board governance structure to strengthen equity.</p> <p>The principles of social justice(tzedek), equity (b'tzelem Elohim), diversity and inclusion (derekh eretz) are values at the core of our democracy, of the Jewish people and of our Federation.</p> <p>We recognize that in order to truly combat systemic inequities in American institutions, we must examine and revise existing governance processes, structures and systems to ensure that they advance inclusiveness and ultimately bring about more equitable representation and policy outcomes.</p> <p>When government agencies take leadership to explore new and innovative strategies to reform democratic processes in this manner, we all benefit; the new knowledge gained, and best practices identified will result in a ripple effect and will inform progress for generations to come.</p> <p>At our Federation, we remain resolute in our commitment to amplifying and advocating for inclusion and progress on social justice issues both in our community and more broadly on a local, national, and global level, fostering allyship and mobilizing alongside our civic and interfaith partners of all races</p>



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	<p>and religions to bring about meaningful and equitable systemic change.</p> <p>As such, we wholeheartedly support the motion proposed by Supervisors Holly J. Mitchell and Lindsey P. Horvath toward Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency.</p>
Michelle King	<p>I support this motion because it could lead to our communities having more opportunity to more meaningfully advocate for a budget that aligns with the County's Care First vision. I also support expanding the Board. Los Angeles is the largest county in the United States and is home to more than 10 million residents. Community input should be a top priority as the County decides how to spend our tax dollars</p>
Molly Neville	
Muhria Ahmanise Sanati	<p>As one who values our voice and actively uses mine whenever possible to advocate for our most vulnerable, I believe item #13 is a step in the right direction to ensure more voices are at the table. This motion reminds me of one of the silver linings in the pandemic, namely that we created remote ways for people to engage in our democracy through meetings that many of us would have otherwise been unable to attend. As a busy, social-working mother of two active young children, not only has this given me an opportunity to use my voice where I couldn't before, it's also given me the opportunity to lead in new circles in which I would otherwise not have access.</p> <p>Although I continue to fight for my voice to be heard in every avenue of my work and community, I can function more efficiently in our democracy and be the voice for many who still aren't heard because there are now more opportunities to do so. I'm aware that there are multiple components to this motion that I haven't discussed; however the overarching goal to have a more equitable outcome in our policy cannot be understated and that is why I urge you to pass this motion.</p>
Paul Copley	<p>Please see my comments in favor of Proportional Representation posted to agenda item seven. I will repost them here in case that is necessary.</p> <p>I encourage the BOS to do a study on the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting RCV for all county-wide elections and include in their study the use of Proportional RCV as a tool for expanding the Board of Supervisors. Studies have shown that a Proportional RCV system, such as Single Transferable Vote (STV), when used to elect a representative body, produces more equitable results that better reflect the demographics and political will of the general population.</p> <p>Furthermore, the more representatives a given body elects in a single election, the more effective a proportional system, such as Single Transferable Vote, becomes. Therefore I ask that the Board considers expanding the number of supervisors from five to 10 (or more) and implement a proportional system using Single Transferable Vote. I strongly urge the</p>



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				<p>Board to move as many of the elections to a single year as possible. Either all ten at the same time or two staggered elections of 5 supervisors.</p> <p>I do not believe there is a need for more districts if the number of supervisors per district is increased. Ideally, the fewer districts, the better, with more supervisors per district.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Go Lakers!</p>
			Ray fossati	
			Ricardo Martinez	<p>Thank you to Supervisor Lindsay P Horvath for spearheading this motion. Los Angeles County is in need of desperate change in our governance system and this is a step towards that direction. The fact that each supervisor represents roughly 2 million people is unacceptable and allows for communities to be left behind. We need to have a representative body that has the time and capacity to represent everyone, no matter their connections or background or income.</p>
			Roxana Tynan	<p>On behalf of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), please support Item 13 on the February 28, 2023 Agenda, pursuing a report-back looking at the County's governance model and consideration of best practices and potential recommendations. LAANE is an advocacy organization committed to economic, environmental, and racial justice. We fight for change through community organizing, coalition building, research, communications, and policy work, including policy change through the actions of the County Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>LAANE is grateful for the leadership and collaboration of the County Board of Supervisors in helping advance equity and inclusion in the region. Item 13 can help support the furtherance of the Board's leadership for a more just County, one that is a model of transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. By working with a consultant to conduct an analysis of best practices and recommendations on potential governance reforms, the County Board can explore and consider potential methods to advance governance practices and policies that improve quality of life for working families throughout Los Angeles County. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and please vote YES on Item 13.</p>
			Roxana Tynan	
			Steven Bravo	
			Yadi -	
		Oppose	David Holtzman	<p>Dear Supervisors:</p> <p>RE: Opposition, Unless Amended, to Agenda Item 13, Tuesday, February 28, 2023</p> <p>NOTE: Part of this Item is largely redundant with Agenda Item 7.</p> <p>While it seems like a good time to review your Board's governance model and practices, spending money on one or more consultants to review the potential</p>



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		<p>expansion of the Board (see the motion's proposal 1.d.) would be wasteful and would delay getting the answer that matters most. Just put the question to the voters! (Put a few options on the ballot, and if more than one passes, the one that gets the largest majority wins.)</p> <p>Apparently, however, you want a review of expanding the Board "to achieve more equitable representation." Define "more equitable." If your definition involves quantifying the race of voters or the racial makeup of the membership of the Board, you risk violating federal law here, or basic civic values. Race-based election districts can become seen, or even function somewhat, as Barrios or Bantustans.</p> <p>I am on the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission. The commission recently had a thorough analysis performed and found no evidence of racially polarized voting in L.A. County supervisor elections. One way of providing representation that is equitable by a neutral definition is through a proportional representation election method. The most prominent such election method is Proportional Ranked Choice Voting (PRCV), which allows voting blocs to form organically – whether by race, national origin, issue, economic status, or something else. PRCV's ability to provide voters with proportional representation of their interests – whatever those interests may be – improves with the number of representatives elected at one election. So PRCV would naturally fit well with electing a larger Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>I cannot now support the motion here unless it is amended to:</p> <p>(1) Include a reasonable definition of "more equitable" in the context of "more equitable representation."</p> <p>(2) Require thorough study and public consideration of Proportional Ranked Choice Voting (PRCV) as the election method for county supervisors. And,</p> <p>(3) Guarantee that, unlike what happened with the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission, any consultants or "external entity" hired for the work described will not have worked, and will not work, for any County of Los Angeles official or agency within the previous or next 12 years, will not have been related within the previous 12 years to any candidate for or occupant of elective office at any level anywhere in Los Angeles County, and will not reside or be headquartered in the County.</p> <p>Sincerely, David Holtzman</p>
	Janet Heinritz- Canterbury	<p>-A hybrid model that requires a quorum to be present at one location does not promote a policy of inclusion and will serve as a barrier to individuals who wish to serve on boards and commissions subject to the Brown Act;</p> <p>-The public should be allowed to participate remotely, which has been shown to increase opportunities for the public to become involved and have their voices heard;</p> <p>-Any personal comment regarding your concern about in-person attendance. will serve as a barrier to individuals who wish to serve on boards and commissions subject to the Brown Act.</p>
	Jose Goles	

		Other	Mike Feinstein	The Green Party of Los Angeles County says these studies must be accompanied by an exploration about how ranked-choice voting (RCV), in concert with a larger BOS, would (1) empower voters by giving them the ability to express their preferences over more candidates, (2) eliminate vote-splitting and the spoiler effect, (3) give greater policy direction to the ultimate winner, and by having only a single RCV general election in November, (4) eliminate the present contingent spring/Nov elections that lead to lower turnout and less diverse spring elections determining the winner in two candidate races and who advances to Nov in 3 or more candidate races, (5) save the taxpayer money by paying for only one election and (6) lower the cost of running for office by having only one election
		Item Total	38	
Grand Total			38	



February 27, 2023

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: SUPPORT – Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Catalyst California, formerly known as Advancement Project California, respectfully asks that you support the motion improving Los Angeles County board governance to strengthen equity and transparency. This process could take meaningful steps to analyze participation disparities and identify reforms that promote more equitable engagement in policy and budget development processes.

The Board took bold action in 2020 when it established the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative. Such action is needed to address the wide range of structural-based racial disparities that plague Los Angeles County. Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath's motion to establish an independent governance reform committee has the potential to complement the Board's establishment of ARDI by identifying structural changes in governance that effectively deal with racial disparities in public participation.

Across the United States, significant racial and socioeconomic disparities exist in voting and other forms of public participation. Generally, Whites are overrepresented and participate at higher rates than people of color. Additionally, individuals with higher levels of income and education participate at higher rates than their lower-income and less-educated counterparts; and older individuals participate at higher rates than younger populations. This is problematic because it results in policy decision-making that is

uninformed by and thus inadequately responsive to the interests and needs of all residents.

Research has shown a pervasive history of disparities in participation that continue to exist in Los Angeles County. For example, across the past three presidential elections, Whites in Los Angeles County voted at a rate of 66 percent, while that figure fell to 56.6 percent for Blacks, 53.5 percent for Latinos/as, and 53.1 percent for Asians.¹ Loyola Marymount University's work on civic deserts demonstrates that persistent low voter participation is geographically concentrated, mainly in the San Fernando Valley, the Eastside of Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, Long Beach, and the Wilmington-Carson area.² Similarly, campaign contributions are unevenly spread across communities. While data by race and ethnicity is limited, the *Los Angeles Times* mapped contributions to the recent Los Angeles mayoral primary election by zip code, demonstrating significant geographical gaps.³ These trends in election-related participation often correlate with trends in other forms of public participation that play an essential role in the policy-making process

Similar to voting, research shows racial and socioeconomic disparities in contacting elected officials (e.g., making phone calls and office visits, sending mail and emails, and using different forms of social media).⁴ Across all forms, Whites and those individuals with higher levels of income and/or education tend to participate at higher levels. At the state level, for instance, Asian Americans and Latinos/as commonly have the lowest rates of contacting public officials (9 percent and 7 percent, respectively) compared to Whites (26 percent). While the data is limited, research by the Pat Brown Institute found similar trends at the local level. For example, Whites (22 percent) are more likely than Latinos/as

1 "Los Angeles County." Race Counts, December 2, 2022. <https://www.racecounts.org/county/los-angeles/>.

2 University, Loyola Marymount. "LA County Civic Deserts." LA County Civic Deserts - Loyola Marymount University. Accessed January 21, 2023. <https://academics.lmu.edu/study/la/maps/lacounty/civildeserts/>.

3 Lee, Iris, and Sandhya Kambhampati. "Where L.A. Mayoral Candidates Raise the Most Money Ahead of the June 7 Primary." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times. Accessed January 21, 2023. <https://www.latimes.com/projects/los-angeles-2022-mayoral-election-funding-maps-primary-karen-bass-rick-caruso-kevin-de-leon/>.

4 Dobard, John, Kim Engie, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Sono Shah, and Lisa Garcia Bedolla. 2017. *Unequal Voices II: Who Speaks for California?*, 7. http://advancementprojectca.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Unequal-Voices_PartII.pdf.



(13 percent) to have attended a public meeting in Los Angeles.⁵ Additionally, Whites (18 percent) are more likely to participate in neighborhood councils than Blacks (13 percent) and Latinos/as (12 percent).⁶ Gaps like these indicate that officials are much more likely to hear from White residents than from residents of color.

Disparities such as these are best explained by structural barriers that impede participation rather than political apathy.⁷ A sincere effort to improve the Board's governance structure is an opportunity to identify such barriers and explore how they can be removed. An independent review of the Board's governance model and identification of best practices from across the country is an important first step. For these reasons, we urge you to pass Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath's motion.

Sincerely,

Aaron Robertson
Director of Political Voice

⁵ Sonenshein, Raphael J., Gar Culbert, Paul Mitchell, and Robert Brown. 2014. Who Votes in Los Angeles City Elections?, 6.

⁶ Sonenshein, 11.

⁷ Dobard 2017, 20.

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February 27, 2023

Submitted via online portal and email.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support – Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The below organizations thank Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath for their motion to conduct a review of the Board's governance model and identify best practices from across the country, and we urge all Supervisors to support this motion. The process outlined in the motion could uncover barriers for Angelenos to participate in policy and budget decisions, which will be the first step in exploring remedies that can increase transparency, equity, inclusivity, and civic participation in LA County Board matters.

Our organizations are particularly hopeful that this motion could lead to our members and community partners having more opportunity to more meaningfully advocate for a budget that aligns with the County's Care First vision. Last year, we were dismayed that LA County's budget was introduced in a way that excluded many Angelenos from participating even after the Alternatives to Incarceration Workgroup process and Measure J made clear that voters and community members want more of a say in the County's funding priorities. Last year, budget hearings were not announced to the public, though they are supposed to be open to the public, and community members encountered great difficulty in trying to access and participate in the meetings.

Budget access and transparency are essential because of how difficult it is to access detailed budget information from county entities. For example, the ACLU SoCal has made multiple phone calls to HOST and the CEO requesting information on the HOST budget. We were told to file a Public Records Act (PRA) request. We received an extension of time request recently and now—assuming we receive the documents after the extension—it will have taken a PRA request and over 24 days to receive budget information for the HOST team. We often struggle with requests to receive details and specific breakdowns of entity budgets, even though these should be public records.

Los Angeles County will realize its Care First vision only through transparent and accessible processes that encourage community involvement and meaningful input to ensure investment in communities with a history of disinvestment. Impacted community members have long led the fight for equitable access to the budget process and should have a substantial role in the

budgeting process, especially because they are often the ones most negatively impacted by the Board's funding decisions.

Our organizations also support this motion because of its potential to increase access to elected officials for Angelenos. Los Angeles is the largest county in the United States and is home to more than 10 million residents.¹ Because the five-member board is locked in size, however, individual supervisors are tasked with representing roughly two million residents, an unmanageable number of constituents with pressing and diverse needs. By comparison, U.S. representatives serve roughly 760,000 constituents.² The Board's structure means that the average resident has no meaningful opportunity to engage their supervisor about the needs of their family and neighborhood; instead, that opportunity is reserved for special interests and others close to power. Across the country, jurisdictions that are comparable in size to Los Angeles have larger, more representative governing bodies. For example, New York City and Chicago have city councils composed of at least 50 members, with individual members serving 165,000 and almost 55,000 residents, respectively.³ Increasing the number of supervisorial seats to reduce the number of people each supervisor serves will enable greater responsiveness and accountability.

Community input should be a top priority as the County decides how to spend our tax dollars, which motions to pass, and how to best serve its 10. This motion is an imperative first step. We strongly support this motion and urge the Board to pass it.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Southern California

Always for the People

Bend the Arc- Jewish Action Southern California

California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP)

Community Coalition (CoCo)

Dignity and Power Now

Fair Chance Project

Families United to End LWOP (FUEL)

¹ QuickFacts, Los Angeles County, California, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://bit.ly/3xUVSrl> (2020 census).

² Final 2020 California Congressional Districts Statistics, We Draw the Lines, <https://bit.ly/3kAicDN>.

³ See QuickFacts, New York City, New York, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://bit.ly/3kuSuQX> (2020 census showing a population of 8,804,190); QuickFacts, Chicago City, Illinois, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://bit.ly/3Y7jWSL> (2020 census showing a population of 2,746,388); Council Members & Districts, New York City Council, <http://bit.ly/3EGqaCf> (noting that New York City has 51 council districts); Chicago Ward & Aldermanic Directory, Chicago Board of Elections, <http://bit.ly/3xXO88a> (noting that Chicago City has 50 wards).

Ground Game LA

HangOutDoGood (HODG)

Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP)

La Defensa

Los Angeles Progressive

Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP)

Post-Conviction Advocates

PowerPAC

Re-imagine LA (RELA)

Revolve Impact

Southern Christian Leadership Conference -Southern California (SCLC-SoCal)

Cc: Celia Zavala, Executive Office, executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov
Chair Janice Hahn, Fourth District, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Chair Pro Tem Lindsey P. Horvath, Third District, ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District, FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District, SecondDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Fifth District, Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Suite 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: February 28, 2023 - Agenda Item #13

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

The Immigrants Are LA (IRLA) coalition is a diverse, community-led Los Angeles County initiative launched by the Immigrant Integration Task Force, convened by the California Community Foundation, and composed of over 100 community-based organizations, faith-based groups, and direct service providers. We envision a socially, economically, and politically empowered immigrant community of all backgrounds and statuses working to build a just Los Angeles County for all.

IRLA is writing in support of Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Lindsey Horvath's motion, "Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency." This motion will help the county develop innovative strategies to advance more equitable and inclusive policy and budget development processes. Given the immense power of the Board and the county's massive \$44.6 billion annual budget, potential reforms such as a participatory budget process and an electoral process with increased public participation, could have a far-reaching and positive impact on the county's 10 million residents.

Inclusive, transparent decision-making processes with meaningful opportunities for public participation ensure that the people most affected, especially those who have been historically excluded and marginalized, have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. These processes result in policies that are more responsive to community needs and priorities and a local government that is more accountable to its constituents.

IRLA respectfully urges the Board to vote in favor of Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath's motion as part of its ongoing commitment to creating an equitable county for all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs of [Immigrants Are LA](https://www.immigrantsarela.com)

Angelica Salas, Executive Director, CHIRLA

Aquilina Soriano Versoza, Executive Director, Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California

Bamby Salcedo, President/CEO, The TransLatin@ Coalition

Francisco Moreno, Executive Director, COFEM

Masih Fouladi, Deputy Executive Director, CAIR-LA

Rudy Espinoza, Executive Director, Inclusive Action for the City

February 27, 2023

Submitted via online portal and email.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support – Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The below organizations thank Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath for their motion to conduct a review of the Board's governance model and identify best practices from across the country, and we urge all Supervisors to support this motion. The process outlined in the motion could uncover barriers for Angelenos to participate in policy and budget decisions, which will be the first step in exploring remedies that can increase transparency, equity, inclusivity, and civic participation in LA County Board matters.

Our organizations are particularly hopeful that this motion could lead to our members and community partners having more opportunity to more meaningfully advocate for a budget that aligns with the County's Care First vision. Last year, we were dismayed that LA County's budget was introduced in a way that excluded many Angelenos from participating even after the Alternatives to Incarceration Workgroup process and Measure J made clear that voters and community members want more of a say in the County's funding priorities. Last year, budget hearings were not announced to the public, though they are supposed to be open to the public, and community members encountered great difficulty in trying to access and participate in the meetings.

Budget access and transparency are essential because of how difficult it is to access detailed budget information from county entities. For example, the ACLU SoCal has made multiple phone calls to HOST and the CEO requesting information on the HOST budget. We were told to file a Public Records Act (PRA) request. We received an extension of time request recently and now—assuming we receive the documents after the extension—it will have taken a PRA request and over 24 days to receive budget information for the HOST team. We often struggle with requests to receive details and specific breakdowns of entity budgets, even though these should be public records.

Los Angeles County will realize its Care First vision only through transparent and accessible processes that encourage community involvement and meaningful input to ensure investment in communities with a history of disinvestment. Impacted community members have long led the fight for equitable access to the budget process and should have a substantial role in the

budgeting process, especially because they are often the ones most negatively impacted by the Board's funding decisions.

Our organizations also support this motion because of its potential to increase access to elected officials for Angelenos. Los Angeles is the largest county in the United States and is home to more than 10 million residents.¹ Because the five-member board is locked in size, however, individual supervisors are tasked with representing roughly two million residents, an unmanageable number of constituents with pressing and diverse needs. By comparison, U.S. representatives serve roughly 760,000 constituents.² The Board's structure means that the average resident has no meaningful opportunity to engage their supervisor about the needs of their family and neighborhood; instead, that opportunity is reserved for special interests and others close to power. Across the country, jurisdictions that are comparable in size to Los Angeles have larger, more representative governing bodies. For example, New York City and Chicago have city councils composed of at least 50 members, with individual members serving 165,000 and almost 55,000 residents, respectively.³ Increasing the number of supervisorial seats to reduce the number of people each supervisor serves will enable greater responsiveness and accountability.

Community input should be a top priority as the County decides how to spend our tax dollars, which motions to pass, and how to best serve its 10. This motion is an imperative first step. We strongly support this motion and urge the Board to pass it.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Southern California

Always for the People

Bend the Arc- Jewish Action Southern California

California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP)

Community Coalition (CoCo)

Dignity and Power Now

Fair Chance Project

Families United to End LWOP (FUEL)

¹ QuickFacts, Los Angeles County, California, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://bit.ly/3xUVSrl> (2020 census).

² Final 2020 California Congressional Districts Statistics, We Draw the Lines, <https://bit.ly/3kAicDN>.

³ See QuickFacts, New York City, New York, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://bit.ly/3kuSuQX> (2020 census showing a population of 8,804,190); QuickFacts, Chicago City, Illinois, U.S. Census Bureau, <https://bit.ly/3Y7jWSL> (2020 census showing a population of 2,746,388); Council Members & Districts, New York City Council, <http://bit.ly/3EGqaCf> (noting that New York City has 51 council districts); Chicago Ward & Aldermanic Directory, Chicago Board of Elections, <http://bit.ly/3xXO88a> (noting that Chicago City has 50 wards).

Ground Game LA

HangOutDoGood (HODG)

Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP)

La Defensa

Los Angeles Progressive

Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP)

Post-Conviction Advocates

PowerPAC

Re-imagine LA (RELA)

Revolve Impact

Southern Christian Leadership Conference -Southern California (SCLC-SoCal)

Cc: Celia Zavala, Executive Office, executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov
Chair Janice Hahn, Fourth District, FourthDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Chair Pro Tem Lindsey P. Horvath, Third District, ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District, FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District, SecondDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Fifth District, Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov

DAVID A. HOLTZMAN, M.P.H., J.D.
145 S. GLENOAKS BLVD. #301
BURBANK, CA 91502

February 27, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
via <https://publiccomment.bos.lacounty.gov/>

Dear Supervisors:

RE: Opposition, Unless Amended, to Agenda Item 13, Tuesday,
February 28, 2023

NOTE: Part of this Item is largely redundant with Agenda Item 7.

While it seems like a good time to review your Board's governance model and practices, spending money on one or more consultants to review the potential expansion of the Board (see the motion's proposal 1.d.) would be wasteful and would delay getting the answer that matters most. Just put the question to the voters! (Put a few options on the ballot, and if more than one passes, the one that gets the largest majority wins.)

Apparently, however, you want a review of expanding the Board "to achieve more equitable representation." Define "more equitable." If your definition involves quantifying the race of voters or the racial makeup of the membership of the Board, you risk violating federal law here, or basic civic values. Race-based election districts can become seen, or even function somewhat, as Barrios or Bantustans.

I am on the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission. The commission recently had a thorough analysis performed and found no evidence of racially polarized voting in L.A. County supervisor elections.

One way of providing representation that is equitable by a neutral definition is through a proportional representation election method. The most prominent such election method is Proportional Ranked Choice Voting (PRCV), which allows voting blocs to form

organically – whether by race, national origin, issue, economic status, or something else. PRCV’s ability to provide voters with proportional representation of their interests – whatever those interests may be – improves with the number of representatives elected at one election. So PRCV would naturally fit well with electing a larger Board of Supervisors.

I cannot now support the motion here unless it is amended to:

- (1) Include a reasonable definition of “more equitable” in the context of “more equitable representation.”
- (2) Require thorough study and public consideration of Proportional Ranked Choice Voting (PRCV) as the election method for county supervisors. And,
- (3) Guarantee that, unlike what happened with the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission, any consultants or “external entity” hired for the work described will not have worked, and will not work, for any County of Los Angeles official or agency within the previous or next 12 years, will not have been related within the previous 12 years to any candidate for or occupant of elective office at any level anywhere in Los Angeles County, and will not reside or be headquartered in the County.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Holtzman

cola@holtzmanconsulting.com



10011 Melgar Drive, Whittier, CA 90603

February 27, 2023

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support – Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County strongly supports this motion by Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath to hire a consultant and conduct a review of the Board's governance model, identify best practices from across the country, and to make recommendations on potential governance reforms to enable a more transparent and equitable policy development process. We have a long-standing position in support of an independent and separate audit department that would provide an independent review of the executive functions of the county government and report directly to the Board. Efficiency, transparency, and accountability of county operations is the goal to make county services more effective and is a League position.

In addition, the League has long been aligned with the First Amendment Coalition and strongly supports broad accessibility to public involvement in the ongoing Budget Process with multiple ways for the public to access budget documents and multiple ways to testify and comment on the proposed budget. Therefore, we urge the adoption of policies that permit and encourage the public to comment remotely at public meetings beyond a designated state of emergency. The League advocates for open and public participation in government decisions.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



8101 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90044

T 323.750.9087
W CoCoSouthLA.org

February 24, 2023
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administrators
500 W. Temple Street
Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support – Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Community Coalition (CoCo) thanks Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath for their motion to conduct a review of the Board's governance model and identify best practices from across the country and we urge all Supervisors to support this motion. The process outlined in the motion could uncover barriers for Angelenos to participate in policy and budget decisions, which will be the first step in exploring remedies that can increase transparency, equity, inclusivity, and civic participation in LA County Board matters.

CoCo is a non-profit social justice organization that works to help transform the social and economic conditions in South Los Angeles (South LA) that foster addiction, crime, violence and poverty by building a community institution that involves thousands in creating, influencing and changing public policy. CoCo elevates the voices of those most proximate to the issues, such as South LA's primarily African American and Latinx residents, to help tackle the root causes of inequity and disadvantage.

Community Coalition is excited for the potential impact of this motion, which may enable greater participation in Los Angeles County's democratic processes by providing community members with meaningful opportunities to advocate on issues that impact their everyday lives. For our elder members and members that are working during the normal meeting times, the opportunity to provide public comment remotely beyond a designated state of emergency and during commission/committee meetings will assure equitable access to the County's participatory democratic processes.

We believe our community members are the experts on the issues impacting them and are therefore critical in engaging during a decision making process. Our hope is that through this review, many of the gaps of the County's complex system that include providing limited information and outreach for community members are resolved.

Community input should be a top priority as the County decides how to spend our tax dollars, which motions to pass, and how to receive the most public engagement as possible to best serve your 10 million constituents. This motion is an imperative first step. For these reasons, we support this motion and urge the Board to pass the motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alberto Retana', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

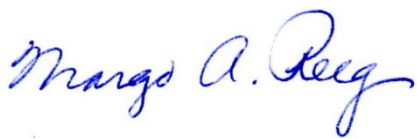
Alberto Retana
President & CEO
Community Coalition

We also strongly support the continued use of hybrid meetings and hearings which facilitate the participation of members of the public from many neighborhoods and who speak many languages. League members attended all meetings of the LA County Redistricting Commission remotely and saw the value of remote testimony either by phone or internet with translation provided for those who needed it. This process greatly enlarged the participation in Redistricting and enabled testimony from people who could never have attended a live meeting during the day.

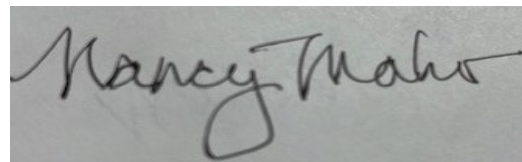
Finally, the League has campaigned for Campaign Funding Reform for decades. We encourage the Board to have County Counsel study and make recommendations for campaign finance reforms to advance a more equitable process, including an analysis of adjusting contribution limits, creating a matching funds program for County elections, and establishing fully publicly financed elections, and creating a process for routine review of campaign finance ethics (e.g., a campaign finance ethics commission following every County election). Many of these reforms will contribute to making the Board members more beholden to their constituents and less dependent and obligated to large donors.

For these reasons the League of Women Voters urges each of you to vote for this motion which will help make the Board decisions more in line with the needs of your constituents—the people of Los Angeles County for whom the many services were designed to support.

Thank you,



Margo A. Reeg, Co-President
League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County



Nancy Mahr, Co-President

February 27, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

(Mitchell/Horvath) - SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

The California Community Foundation (CCF), writes in strong support of the motion to be introduced on February 28th, 2023, to initiate an independent review process of the Board's governance model with the goal of identifying potential reforms to increase equity, transparency, and inclusivity.

The mission of CCF is to lead positive systemic change that strengthens Los Angeles communities. We envision a future where all Angelenos have the opportunity to contribute to the productivity, health and well-being of our region. We further believe that our common fate will be determined by how successfully we improve the quality of life for all of our residents. Because we see the Board of Supervisors as having the most profound impact, in its policies and practices, on Angelenos, we believe in the importance of this thoughtful effort to review and identify areas of possible improvement.

In a recent survey done in partnership with the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at California State University Los Angeles and BPS Research, 3,000 Los Angeles residents in the Antelope Valley, Long Beach, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Southwest LA, and South LA were surveyed. From their responses, we learned two crucial findings. Angelenos reported being more likely to participate in local politics after COVID-19. We also learned that elected officials are among the least trusted messengers. We see this initiative as an opportunity to embrace transparency and feedback in the functions of government. Embracing these as tools for improvement has the corollary effect of restoring trust in our officials.

We have the opportunity to jumpstart reform through a credible, independent process aimed at exceptional future governance. For these reasons, we urge you to pass the motion presented by Supervisor Mitchell and Supervisor Horvath.

Sincerely,



Antonia Hernández
President & CEO



CC: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Chair Holly Mitchell
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Janice Hahn

From: [ExecutiveOffice](#)
To: [First District](#); [Holly J. Mitchell](#); [Third District](#); [Supervisor Janice Hahn \(Fourth District\)](#); [Barger, Kathryn](#)
Cc: [PublicComments](#)
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Item 13 on 2-28-2023 LABOS Regular Meeting Agenda
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 6:54:42 PM
Attachments: [Letter of support re LACBOS \(Mitchell-Horvath Motion Agenda Item 13\) \(1\).pdf](#)

The following correspondence is being forwarded to you for your review/information.

From: Sean McMorris <smcmorris@commoncause.org>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 5:38 PM
To: ExecutiveOffice <ExecutiveOffice@bos.lacounty.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support for Item 13 on 2-28-2023 LABOS Regular Meeting Agenda

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Hello,

Please find attached California common Cause's letter of support for the Mitchell-Horvath Motion (Item #13) on the 2-28-2023 LACBOS Regular Meeting Agenda.

Regards,
Sean McMorris

Sean McMorris (He/Him)

Transparency, Ethics & Accountability Program Manager

California Common Cause

430 S. Garfield Ave. Suite 418, Alhambra CA 91801

smcmorris@commoncause.org

(626) 382-6994

From: [Alberty, Latayvius](#)
To: [Ruiz, Tanya](#); [Talamantes, Cristina](#); [Medina, Annette](#); [Garibay, Francisco](#)
Cc: [Gutierrez, Carmen](#)
Subject: FW: California Community Foundation Letter of Support for Item #13- Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 7:32:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[BOS Governance Reform Letter of Support- 022723.pdf](#)

Please confirm inclusion.

Thanks,

Tay

EXECUTIVE OFFICE LATAYVIUS R. ALBERTY, ESQ.



Deputy Executive Officer, Board Operations
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple St., Suite 383, Los Angeles, CA 90012
☎ (213) 974-0935

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

✉ LAlberty@bos.lacounty.gov
🐦 [@LACountyBOS](https://twitter.com/LACountyBOS)

From: Zavala, Celia <czavala@bos.lacounty.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 7:29 PM

To: Alberty, Latayvius <LAlberty@bos.lacounty.gov>; Gutierrez, Carmen <CGutierrez@bos.lacounty.gov>

Cc: Levinson, Jeff <JLevinson@bos.lacounty.gov>; Lingat, Lorayne <LLingat@bos.lacounty.gov>

Subject: FW: California Community Foundation Letter of Support for Item #13- Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

Here is another one that needs to be included on item 13 correspondence. Thanks

From: Diana Colin <dcolin@calfund.org>

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 3:29 PM

To: First District <firstdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov>; SecondDistrict <SecondDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov>; Third District <ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov>; Supervisor Janice Hahn (Fourth District) <fourthdistrict@bos.lacounty.gov>; Barger, Kathryn <Kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov>; ExecutiveOffice <ExecutiveOffice@bos.lacounty.gov>

Cc: Lim, Esther <ELim@bos.lacounty.gov>; Mathews, John <JMathews@bos.lacounty.gov>; Coates, Kyla <KCoates@bos.lacounty.gov>; Croxton, Sandra <SCroxton@bos.lacounty.gov>; Zavala, Celia <czavala@bos.lacounty.gov>; Sara Harris <SHarris@bos.lacounty.gov>; Caroline Torosis <CTorosis@bos.lacounty.gov>; Shelton, Kirk <KShelton@bos.lacounty.gov>; Wyville, Nick <NWyville@bos.lacounty.gov>; Pawlowski, Veronica <VPawlowski@bos.lacounty.gov>; Summer Lacey <SLacey@aclusocal.org>; Karla Hernandez <KHernandez@calfund.org>; Juliet Gifford <JGifford@calfund.org>; Jarrett Barrios <JBarrios@calfund.org>; Maria Garcia <mgarcia@calfund.org>

Subject: California Community Foundation Letter of Support for Item #13- Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Through the attached letter, the California Community Foundation (CCF) writes in strong support of agenda item #13, to be introduced on February 28th, 2023, to initiate an independent review

process of the Board's governance model to identify potential reforms to increase equity, transparency, and inclusivity.

Much appreciation,

Diana Colin

Civic Engagement Program Officer



717 W Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

office: 213.452.6240

fax: 213.239.2498

email: dcolin@calfund.org

We have moved!

Our new address is: 717 W Temple St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

From: [Jessica Farris](#)
To: [First District](#); [Second District](#); [Third District](#); [Supervisor Janice Hahn \(Fourth District\)](#); [Barger, Kathryn](#); [Executive Office](#)
Cc: [Lim, Esther](#); [Mathews, John](#); [Coates, Kyla](#); [Croxtan, Sandra](#); [Zavala, Celia](#); [Sara Harris](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Shelton, Kirk](#); [Wyville, Nick](#); [Pawlowski, Veronica](#); [Summer Lacey](#)
Subject: Justice Orgs Support Letter for Item #13--Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 12:01:01 PM
Attachments: [Justice Orgs Ltr to LA BOS re Agenda Item no 13.pdf](#)

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

Dear All,

Please see the attached letter supporting Agenda Item #13—Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency—on tomorrow’s agenda. The attached letter outlines the strong support of the below organizations.

- ACLU of Southern California
- Always for the People
- Bend the Arc- Jewish Action Southern California
- California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP)
- Community Coalition (CoCo)
- Dignity and Power Now (DPN)
- Fair Chance Project
- Families United to End LWOP (FUEL)
- Ground Game LA
- HangOutDoGood (HODG)
- Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP)
- La Defensa
- Los Angeles Progressive
- Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP)
- Post-Conviction Advocates
- PowerPAC
- Re-imagine LA (RELA)
- Revolve Impact
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference -Southern California

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

All the best,

Jess Farris

Senior Policy Counsel

Pronouns: She/Her

ACLU of Southern California

1313 W. 8th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213-977-5208

[website](#) || [facebook](#) || [twitter](#) || [blog](#)

The ACLU: Stand for Justice



February 27, 2023

Supervisors Holly J. Mitchell and Lindsey P. Horvath
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Support – Governance Reform Motion - File No. 23-0683

Dear Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath,

We write on behalf of Abundant Housing LA in support of your governance reform [motion](#) (file number 23-0683), which is Item 13 on the Board of Supervisors' meeting [agenda](#) for February 28, 2023. The motion would start the process of public deliberation on measures to make County decision making processes more inclusive, transparent and equitable. Doing so could facilitate the process of solving Los Angeles County's housing affordability crisis and addressing many other issues of public concern.

Abundant Housing LA is a pro-housing, nonprofit advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. We support reforms to legalize more homes, make homes easier to build, increase funding for affordable housing, and protect tenants, which are all needed to make housing more affordable, improve access to jobs and transit, promote greater environmental sustainability, and advance racial and economic equity. As a community organization, in order to maintain our independence, we do not accept financial support from housing developers or their consultants.

Many of the governance reform concepts raised in the motion would be constructive and are worthy of further exploration. Allowing more time for public review of proposed County decisions would give the public a more meaningful opportunity to weigh in, as opposed to posting a meeting agenda in time to meet the minimum requirements of state law. 72 hours does not give the public adequate time to digest a large volume of complex information. Having a more formalized process of policy development through Board committees or, as the County refers to them, "clusters," could allow for more refinement of ideas prior to consideration by the full Board. Closely related is the concept of expanding the number of supervisorial districts. A larger number of supervisors would make it easier to develop policy committees. Existing supervisorial districts are extremely large, where each Supervisor represents approximately two million people, making it difficult to attend to local issues or for candidates to launch effective campaigns without large sums of money. The County is also weighing state level advocacy to amend the Brown Act to facilitate remote public comment and hybrid meetings. This would be welcome, since remote participation options lower the time cost of public engagement and can be more inclusive for people with disabilities (e.g. for an immunocompromised person who may

be reluctant to attend an in-person meeting). Finally, County staff would report back on options for campaign finance reform. Reducing candidates' reliance on fundraising from wealthy donors and special interest groups makes it more likely that decisions will be made in the public interest. More robust public financing of campaigns and innovative approaches like [Democracy Vouchers](#) could help level the playing field and make the system more responsive to everyday residents.

Although not mentioned in the motion, we also encourage the County to examine the way that it reviews housing development proposals as part of the governance reform conversation. Moving to more by-right, ministerial reviews based on objective standards makes housing less risky and expensive to build. Infill housing projects near jobs and transit should not be held up by lengthy environmental reviews under CEQA and they will not be with ministerial review. In the most extreme cases, discretionary reviews can even lead to corruption, as we have seen recently in the [case](#) of former Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar. Governance reform should ensure that we address our housing challenges in a manner that is predictable, fair and cost effective.

For these reasons, we would be proud to support the motion and we thank you for bringing this important proposal forward.

Sincerely,

Leonora Camner

Leonora Camner
Executive Director
Abundant Housing LA

David J. Barboza

David J. Barboza, AICP
Director of Policy and Research
Abundant Housing LA



February 28, 2023

Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
LA County Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Items 7 & 13, Governance Reform

Dear Supervisor Hahn,

We are excited about your leadership of the Board of Supervisors and look forward to our continued work with you and your team. CCA's mission is to enhance Downtown Los Angeles' vibrancy and increase opportunity in the region. We represent the interests of about 300 businesses, trade associations and nonprofits from a broad range of industries. **We write this letter to express our support of the motions to examine LA County board governance structure.**

The City of LA has established an Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform and CCA has been actively participating in those deliberations and will be releasing a research paper on this topic in March. We are glad to see the Board also deliberating governance and believe it is a strategic process to engage in. **We stand ready to partner with you and the Board as this item advances.**

We appreciate your consideration and we are eager to support your efforts to make Los Angeles a more livable county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nella McOskey", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nella McOskey
President & CEO
Central City Association

Cc: Honorable Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



February 27, 2023

RE: SUPPORT FOR ITEM 13, Improving Los Angeles County Board Governance to Strengthen Equity and Transparency

Dear Honorable Board Chair Hahn and Supervisors Solis, Mitchell, Horvath, and Barger,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), please support Item 13 on the February 28, 2023 Agenda, pursuing a report-back looking at the County's governance model and consideration of best practices and potential recommendations.

LAANE is an advocacy organization committed to economic, environmental, and racial justice. For 30 years, we have bridged community and labor power to win policies that improve the lives of working families in Los Angeles County. Our vision is to help build a new economy rooted in good jobs, thriving communities, and a healthy environment for all. We fight for change through community organizing, coalition building, research, communications, and policy work, including policy change through the actions of the County Board of Supervisors.

LAANE is grateful for the leadership and collaboration of the County Board of Supervisors in helping advance equity and inclusion in the region. Item 13 can help support the furtherance of the Board's leadership for a more just County, one that is a model of transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. By working with a consultant to conduct an analysis of best practices and recommendations on potential governance reforms, the County Board can explore and consider potential methods to advance governance practices and policies that improve quality of life for working families throughout Los Angeles County.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and please vote YES on Item 13.

Sincerely,

Roxana Tynan, Executive Director
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy